

still \$13 billion in the hole on Social Security. That is what bothers me, and I think it bothers a lot of people in this country. I think they should get their appropriations bills all lined up so we can look at them, instead of holding education funding till the last so they can use education as an ATM machine.

PRESIDENT IS NOW ON BOARD WITH REPUBLICANS

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have not spent one dime of the Social Security surplus. And in Kansas, there is a saying, "Don't change horses in the middle of the stream." There is a reason for that. If one did try to change horses, he could run the unnecessary risk of falling into the river and possibly drowning.

That is exactly what the President has done. In the middle of the stream of spending bills that we have, the President has gotten off the horse he had during his State of the Union speech, where he said he would spend 40 percent of the Social Security surplus, on to the horse the Republicans have been riding when we said we will not spend one dime of the Social Security Trust Fund.

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Welcome, Mr. President. We will extend our hand so that you will not fall. Together we can take a big red pen like the one I am holding in my hand and cut wasteful Government programs, protecting the Social Security surplus.

Congratulations, Mr. President. Come on over.

REPUBLICANS USE SOCIAL SECURITY AS A PIGGY BANK

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is so very refreshing to see the Republicans here on the floor professing an interest in protecting the Social Security surplus.

It was only a short time ago that their majority leader was condemning Social Security as a bad deal and saying he never would have created it in the first place.

What we do know this year is, after jeopardizing Social Security with a near trillion-dollar irresponsible tax break for those at the top of the economic ladder, that the Republicans' own Congressional Budget Office has verified that they have gone \$13 billion already, if we stop right now and went home, \$13 billion into the Social Security surplus. That is without ever having come to this House floor, 3 weeks after the Federal fiscal deadline, and presented the bill to fund education and health and a wide variety of other measures.

The Republicans, if they stay on their current course, are going to dip into Social Security another \$24 billion dollars. That is without any help from anyone but themselves. Apparently, their new interest in Social Security is to use it as a piggy bank.

PRESIDENT'S TAX VETO ALLOWS "DEATH TAX" TO CONTINUE TO CLOSE SMALL BUSINESSES

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have here a headline from the Colorado Springs Gazette newspaper. It says, "Brookhart's Lumber Business Selling to Avoid 'Death Tax,' Company Says."

I have known this company for over 30 years. I watched their struggle over this issue. This is a company that is 52 years old, locally owned, three generations. They wanted to continue to operate this profitable small business. They wanted their boys to inherit it when they are gone. But they cannot because of the death tax.

Locally-owned company sells out to a Dallas conglomerate. We lose a locally-owned company.

Be proud, Mr. President, your veto saved the Nation from this evil tax cut that would have gotten rid of the death tax and prevented incidences like the Brookharts which are occurring all over the Nation with small farms and businesses everywhere.

In his passion for more tax dollars and for the bigger Government he so loves, he should remember that there are real-life consequences to his irresponsible actions.

Be proud, Mr. President. But I am ashamed of you and your thirst for the hard-earned tax dollars of working Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER). The Chair will remind Members to address the Chair, the Speaker, and not other persons.

PEACE WEEK

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Peace Week.

The award-winning Peace Week program has brought together three communities I am so proud to represent: Guadalupe, Orcutt, and Santa Maria. During the week, residents of these communities united to show their commitment to creating and building a more peaceful society.

The success of this innovative week is due in no small part to the great contributions made by Sister Janet Corcoran at the Marion Medical Center in Santa Maria.

Sister Janet started this program 3 years ago when she noticed such an increase in the number of victims of violence admitted to Marion's Emergency Room. Sister Janet saw the need for leaders throughout the community to get involved. With their leadership, Peace Week has developed into an effective series of workshops and activities to promote non-violence strategies.

It is fitting that Peace Week corresponds with our own Voices Against Violence Teen Conference here in the Capitol, which includes a young student from Santa Maria. Both are excellent examples of programs aimed at preventing violence.

Peace Week illustrates well how communities can come together and make real change. I am so proud that this is taking place in my district.

"HOUSE CLOBBERS CLINTON TAX BOOST"

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, let me share with my colleagues a headline from the front page of one of the leading newspapers in the country. Today the front page headline in The Washington Times says, "House Clobbers Clinton Tax Boost."

That is right. Did my colleagues know that Bill Clinton and AL GORE wanted to raise taxes again? In fact, yesterday this House voted on the \$238-billion Clinton-Gore tax increase. And even House Democrats who joined with Bill Clinton and AL GORE in 1993 giving our Nation the biggest tax hike in the history of our country voted against another round of tax increases.

The question I am asked also besides the Bill Clinton tax increases is, is it true that Bill Clinton wants to raid Social Security again? And we recall earlier in the President's budget that he submitted to Congress he called for setting aside 62 percent of Social Security for Social Security and taking the other 38 percent, almost \$340 billion of Social Security, and spending it on other things. I would point out this House has rejected that, as well.

My colleagues, we can balance the budget without increasing taxes. We can balance the budget without raiding Social Security.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CLAIMS THEY ARE SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is stealing eggs from the hen house while pretending to guard the door. They claim that they are saving Social Security. But their own office, their own office, the Congressional Budget Office, points out

that they have already spent \$13 billion worth of Social Security money.

Their leadership budget is so full of gimmicks and budget tricks that it would make an accountant cry. In an attempt to fudge the numbers, the leadership created a 13th month so that they can crunch more numbers into the fiscal year.

But the facts are very stubborn things. The Republican leadership is not saving Social Security. They have no plans to do so. The Republican majority leader himself has called Social Security a "rotten trick" and "bad retirement." He has called for Social Security to be phased out.

Earlier this year the Republican leadership tried to spend nearly \$1 trillion of the surplus on tax breaks for the wealthiest people of this country instead of strengthening Social Security.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DESERVES CREDIT FOR FISCAL DISCIPLINE

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, a year ago the President and the Congress said that we should set aside the future Social Security surpluses 100 percent for Social Security. Then the President startled us all because he came here for the State of the Union and he said let us spend 38 percent of Social Security on 71 new spending programs. Then he submitted a budget that said, no, let us spend 42 percent of Social Security on those new spending programs.

The House rejected that budget and yesterday the House sent a strong message to the President that it was not going to support his tax increase, and last night it appears that the President finally got the message and he has agreed to a budget that will save Social Security.

It appears that we have broken the President's addiction to new taxes and higher spending. I applaud the President for joining Republicans saying we are going to balance the budget, save Social Security, and do without taxes.

But I cannot applaud the minority leader, who still remains addicted to spending and taxes, who press accounts say have instructed Democrats to obstruct the process, vote no on everything, make sure we tie up everything as much as we can.

The person who deserves credit, Mr. Speaker, is Speaker HASTERT who has led us with this fiscal discipline.

SAVE US FROM REPUBLICAN GRAB BAG OF GIMMICKS

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my alarm over the Republicans' handling of the budget.

First they gave us the Robin-Hood-in-reverse strategy, take from the poor and give to the rich. That was a big tax cut for the rich where most of the money went to the wealthiest Americans and regular, average citizens got very little.

When that did not work they now come up with a grab bag of gimmicks. That is \$46 billion in gimmicks to disguise the fact that they are in fact raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. They are trying to tell us now that the census is emergency funding. They are trying to tell us that routine military funding is emergency spending, a grab bag of gimmicks.

But third, they now have the fiction of saving Social Security, when the Congressional Budget Office has clearly stated they are already raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to the tune of \$13 billion and at the rate they are going they will reach \$24 billion.

So save us from their strategy, save us from their gimmicks, and save us from their fiction.

What we need is real cooperation on addressing America's real needs and a sound budget that does not benefit the wealthy.

TALK IS CHEAP—TIME FOR ACTION HAS ARRIVED

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to essentially commend the leadership of this House and the administration for getting together and agreeing that Social Security needs to be saved. But the time for talk is done. The time for action has arrived.

The problem that we face is that we have yet to receive a single piece of evidence as to what the administration's plan for saving Social Security is.

We have gone from January 6, the day I arrived here, now 293 days without any evidence whatsoever from the administration as to what their plan is for saving Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate but true. Facts are facts. There is no plan yet put forward by the administration to save Social Security. Talk is cheap. The time for action is now. Every day older, the further behind we get.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to put his plan forward.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE TEEN CONFERENCE

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of three of my constituents who are participating in the Voices Against Violence Teen Conference in the Capitol this week.

Susan Yang is a senior from La Crosse Central High School. Susan has been involved in efforts to curb youth violence and drug use throughout her teens and is a real role model within the Hmong community in western Wisconsin.

Lucas Meyers is a senior at Hudson Senior High School in Wisconsin. Lucas is the student body President and editor-in-chief of his school paper and is a natural leader involved in many aspects of his community and school.

Finally, Sergeant Roger Barnes of La Crosse Police Department, who is a coordinator for the D.A.R.E. and the G.R.E.A.T. programs back home. Sergeant Barnes has dedicated his law enforcement career to the betterment of youth in our community and works tirelessly to see that all our children have better options in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay attention to what they and the other 350 students who have assembled here in the Capitol this week have to say at this conference so that we may work together in a bipartisan fashion to implement policy to prevent youth violence in all of our communities.

EDUCATION IN AMERICA

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, let us talk education. We can all agree on the need to spend money on our public schools. And I hope we can also agree that America's parents have not been getting their money's worth.

Student achievements continues to lag even as spending rises. A lack of discipline plagues thousands of classrooms. School accountability to parents is sorely missing. Many teachers are not getting the training they need to teach their students what they need to know.

So why do so many liberal Democrats continue to oppose real education reform? How can they say they want strong public schools while they vote for the very regulations that weaken public schools?

These advocates of the status quo are defending the indefensible. They are trapping America's most disadvantaged children in a system that has failed them. And they are putting the future of millions of American children in jeopardy. It is long past time to fix the broken system. It is past time to try new ways of doing things, but it is not too late.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ON THE TABLE AND BALANCED

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to some of our